

who was introduced by Senators Lincoln and Pryor, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FEDERAL COCAINE SENTENCING LAWS

Committee on the Judiciary: On Tuesday, February 12, Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs concluded a hearing to examine federal cocaine sentencing laws, focusing on reforming the 100-to-1 crack/powder disparity, including S. 1383, to reduce the disparity in punishment between crack and powder cocaine offenses, to more broadly focus the punishment for drug offenders on the seriousness of the offense and the culpability of the offender, S. 1685, to reduce the sentencing disparity between powder and crack cocaine violations, and to provide increased emphasis on aggravating factors relating to the seriousness of the offense and the culpability of the offender, and S. 1711, to target cocaine kingpins and address sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, after receiving testimony from Gretchen C. Shappert, United States Attorney, Western District of North Carolina, Department of Justice; Ricardo H. Hinojosa, Chair, United States Sentencing Commission; Nora D. Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; Reggie B. Walton, Judge, United States District Court for the District of Columbia, on behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States; and James E. Felman, American Bar Association, Washington, D.C.

STATE SECRETS PRIVILEGE

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state secrets privilege, focusing on protecting national security while preserving accountability, including S. 2533, to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act, after receiving testimony from Carl J. Nichols, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, Depart-

ment of Justice; Patricia M. Wald, former Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Washington, D.C.; Louis Fisher, Specialist in Constitutional Law, Law Library, Library of Congress; Robert M. Chesney, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Michael A. Vatis, Steptoe and Johnson LLP, New York, New York.

VETERANS PROGRAMS BUDGET

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for veterans programs, after receiving testimony from James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Carl Blake, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Fredericksburg, Virginia; Raymond C. Kelley, American Veterans (AMVETS), Lanham, Maryland; John Rowan, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Middle Village, New York; and Kerry Baker, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Christopher Needham, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), and Peter S. Gaytan, American Legion, all of Washington, D.C.

FORECLOSURE AFTERMATH

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the housing foreclosure aftermath, focusing on concerns for elderly homeowners, after receiving testimony from Peggy Twohig, Associate Director, Division of Financial Practices, Federal Trade Commission; Thomas E. Perez, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Registration, Baltimore; Walter Malone, Malone and Malone Construction, Washington, D.C.; Catherine M. Doyle, Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin; John W. Anderson, Twin Oaks Realty, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on behalf of the National Association of Realtors; and Rachel M. Dollar, Smith Dollar, PC, Santa Rosa, California, on behalf of the Mortgage Bankers Association.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 32 public bills, H.R. 5404–5435; 1 private bill, H.R. 5436; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 293–296; and H. Res. 979–981, 984–985 were introduced.

Pages H942–43

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H943–44

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 982, providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 979) recommending that the House of Representatives find Harriet Miers and Joshua Bolten, Chief of Staff, White House, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with subpoenas duly issued by the Committee on the Judiciary and for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 980) authorizing the Committee on the Judiciary to

initiate or intervene in judicial proceedings to enforce certain subpoenas (H. Rept. 110–526) and

H. Res. 983, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 110–527). **Page H941**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Chad Eaton, Biltmore Baptist Church, Arden, North Carolina. **Page H873**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Blackburn motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 3 yeas to 366 nays, Roll No. 46. **Pages H876–77**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Hastings (WA) motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 7 yeas to 364 nays, Roll No. 47. **Pages H877–78**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Hastings (WA) motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 3 yeas to 395 nays, Roll No. 52. **Pages H886–87**

Extending the Protect America Act of 2007 for 21 days: The House failed to pass H.R. 5349, to extend the Protect America Act of 2007 for 21 days, by a recorded vote of 191 yeas to 229 noes, Roll No. 54. **Pages H887–92, H901–07**

Agreed to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair on a point of order sustained against the Smith (TX) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 53. **Pages H905–06**

H. Res. 976, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a recorded vote of 206 yeas to 199 noes, Roll No. 50, and later the House agreed to table the Hastings (WA) motion to reconsider the vote by a recorded vote of 210 yeas to 195 noes, Roll No. 51. The previous question on the rule was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 48, and later the House agreed to table the Hastings (WA) motion to reconsider the vote by a recorded vote of 206 yeas to 194 noes, Roll No. 49. **Pages H877, H878–86**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measures:

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week: H. Res. 917, to support the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 408 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 57 and **Pages H894–96, H909**

Expressing the sympathies and support of the House of Representatives for the individuals and institutions affected by the powerful tornadoes that struck communities in Alabama, Arkansas, Ken-

tucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee on February 5th, 2008: H. Res. 971, to express the sympathies and support of the House of Representatives for the individuals and institutions affected by the powerful tornadoes that struck communities in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee on February 5th, 2008. **Pages H919–22**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, February 12th:

Congratulating the National Football League champion New York Giants for winning Super Bowl XLII and completing one of the most remarkable postseason runs in professional sports history: H. Res. 960, to congratulate the National Football League champion New York Giants for winning Super Bowl XLII and completing one of the most remarkable postseason runs in professional sports history, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 1 nay with 2 voting “present”, Roll No. 55. **Pages H907–08**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Honoring African American inventors, past and present, for their leadership, courage, and significant contributions to our national competitiveness: H. Res. 966, to honor African American inventors, past and present, for their leadership, courage, and significant contributions to our national competitiveness; **Pages H892–94**

National Ocean Exploration Program Act: H.R. 1834, amended, to authorize the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; **Pages H896–H900**

Making technical corrections to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act: S. 2571, to make technical corrections to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; **Pages H900–01**

Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 99th anniversary: H. Con. Res. 289, to honor and praise the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 99th anniversary; **Pages H910–12**

American Braille Flag Memorial Act: H.R. 4169, to authorize the placement in Arlington National Cemetery of an American Braille tactile flag in Arlington National Cemetery honoring blind members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and other Americans; **Pages H912–14**

Commending the people of the State of Washington for showing their support for the needs of the State of Washington's veterans and encouraging residents of other States to pursue creative ways to show their own support for veterans: H. Res. 790, to commend the people of the State of Washington for showing their support for the needs of the State of Washington's veterans and encouraging residents of other States to pursue creative ways to show their own support for veterans;

Pages H914–16

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week: H. Res. 963, to support the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week; and

Pages H916–17

Supporting the goals and ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day: H. Res. 972, to support the goals and ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day.

Pages H917–18

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 293, providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses, by a recorded vote of 215 ayes to 203 noes, Roll No. 56.

Pages H908–09

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted notification of an Executive Order with respect to the Government of Syria—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 110–95).

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Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H873.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H876–77, H877–78, H884, H884–85, H885, H885–86, H886–87, H906, H906–07, H907–08, H908–09, and H909. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 9 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on USDA Secretary. Testimony was heard from Edward Schafer, Secretary of Agriculture.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on DOD Budget Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the

Department of Defense: Gordon England, Deputy Secretary; ADM Michael Mullen, USN, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Tina Jonas, Under Secretary, Comptroller.

The Subcommittee also had a hearing on United States Marine Corps Readiness. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: LTG James F. Amos, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Combat and Integration; and LTG John G. Castellaw, USMC, Commandant, Aviation.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Management Challenges—Inspector General and GAO. Testimony was heard from David M. Walker, Comptroller General, GAO; and Richard L. Skinner, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on U.S. Forest Service. Testimony was heard from Abigail R. Kimbell, Chief, Forest Service, USDA.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Implications of Economic Trends for Workers, Families, and the Nation. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing on Architect of the Capitol. Testimony was heard from Stephen Ayers, Acting Architect of the Capitol.

TRANSPORTATION, HUD, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request. Testimony was heard from Alphonso R. Jackson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

GLOBAL SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on Global Security Assessment. Testimony was heard from